

Priceless

By Andy Smith

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Psalm 139:13-16 (NIV)

The ***Book of Psalms*** contains 150 poems, prayers and promises found in the middle of the Bible. In challenging times, the Psalms speak *for us* when our own words don't seem to work. They are priceless treasures that remind us of the abiding presence of God in our lives, especially when we are feeling alone.

In Psalm 139, the psalmist writes a beautiful prayer to remind us how and why we were each uniquely made. God does not make mistakes. The God who laid the foundations of the earth, who stretched a measuring tape across the heavens, who designed the pathways for the lightning bolts and who gave orders to the morning (Job 38), has personally knit us together in our mother's womb. He formed our hearts. He designed our fingerprints. He has numbered the hairs on our head. We are fearfully and wonderfully made by a creative master artist. We are priceless in God's eyes.

Many of us have often believed a different story. We don't feel wonderful. We struggle to believe we were uniquely created for a specific purpose. We feel the need to be someone other than who we really are in order to be accepted and valued. The pressure to look good on the outside has often left

us screaming for help on the inside. We long to be loved and accepted as we are rather than as we should be. Deep inside, many of us have come to believe that we don't measure up. We long to fit in.

The author of the book of *Ephesians* writes a wonderful promise, “*For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do.*” (*Ephesians 2:10*). God has made us uniquely beautiful for a specific purpose...to do good works. The Greek word for *workmanship* in this verse has the connotation of a priceless “work of art”. Each one of us is God’s priceless work of art carefully created to bring God’s beauty to others, often through quiet, simple acts of kindness.

Enjoy the light-hearted parable, ***The Pandaroo***. Meet the beautiful creatures, Pandaroo, Buffalope, and Chimpanzeebra. They will warm your heart, put a tear in your eye, and help you never forget the timeless truth that each one of us is a priceless “work of art” fearfully and wonderfully made by the loving Creator across the sea...

Questions for Thought:

1. Can you think of a time that you felt left out or excluded?
2. Has anyone ever reached out and included you? Have you done that for someone else?
3. Can you think of someone who needs friendship or just to feel like they belong?